

Bart Stupak
M.C.
Bulk Rate
ECRWSS

Postal Customer
1st Congressional District
Michigan

This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense.



Congressman Bart Stupak met with students and educators in Traverse City in early July to talk about class size and other issues affecting our district schools.

The State of Our Schools

**A Report to the People
of the
1st Congressional District**

Studies conducted on behalf of Rep. Bart Stupak, D-Menominee, in five of the 1st Congressional District's largest communities reveal **there are more than 18 students** in most classrooms for grades K-3. Class size and other issues are discussed in this report on education in northern Michigan. The reverse side offers details on how to obtain more information on education issues. (The surveys, summarized below, were conducted by the House Minority Staff of the Committee on Government Reform.)

School District	% Students in classes of 18 or less %	Students in classes of 19-24	% Students in classes of 25 +	Total % in classes of 19+
Alpena	22.5	61.5	16	77.5
Escanaba	35.5	51.5	13	64.5
Marquette	33.2	57.3	9.5	66.8
Sault Ste. Marie	24	63.7	12.3	76
Traverse City	12.4	50.9	36.7	87.6

Congressman Bart Stupak:

"In addition to visiting our local public schools, I wanted to hear what educators and parents had to say about how we can provide our children the best education possible."



Congressman Stupak spoke to educators about his school class size studies.

Smaller Class Sizes

Other states have conducted studies which demonstrate that decreasing class sizes to a maximum of 18 can have a significant and positive effect on the ability of students to learn. This is important in all grades, but it is especially important in the early years, the foundation of later learning.

Special Education

Educators and parents agree that "inclusion" of disabled students in the regular classroom has a positive effect on all students. Nevertheless, providing non-educational services for the severely handicapped, which is mandated by federal and state governments, is straining local school budgets. Congress originally promised to pay 40 percent of the cost of special education, but has funded only 7 percent. Congressman Stupak believes full funding is needed now.

Early Childhood Education

Research shows that very young minds respond to early stimulation, which allows them to be great learners later. Congressman Stupak has supported Head Start and Early Head Start as essential programs to help our youngest students get the best start.

Safe Schools

Congressman Bart Stupak served on a bipartisan panel that looked at the issue of school violence. Among its conclusions: While schools remain the safest place for children to be, school safety and security can still be improved over the long term. There are programs — especially those which focus on prevention and early intervention — that do work. They deserve the full support of Congress.

Teacher Shortage

There is a growing concern over a shortage of quality teachers in the near future. Low pay, lack of respect for teachers, large class size and unsafe environments are factors contributing to fewer young people entering the teaching profession. Congressman Stupak supported legislation to assist local school districts in hiring additional teachers.

School Modernization

Older school buildings are difficult and expensive to maintain. Technology, such as access to the Internet, is often impractical to install in older buildings.



Congressman Bart Stupak and Secretary of Education Riley answer questions on education issues in Traverse City.

I want to know what you think. Please write to me at the address below. If you would like updates on federal legislation about public education, please fill out the form and mail it to my office:

☐ **YES, keep me informed on federal legislation regarding public education.**

(please print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Mail to:

Rep. Bart Stupak
2348 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

E-Mail:
stupak@mail.house.gov

WEB:
<http://www.house.gov/stupak>